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Socialist Hollande ousts Sarkozy in French vote



PARIS (AFP) - Francois Hollande was elected France's first Socialist president in nearly two decades yesterday, dealing a humiliating defeat to incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy and shaking up European politics.

The result will have major implications for Europe as it struggles to emerge from a financial crisis and for France, the eurozone's second-largest economy and a nuclear-armed permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Hollande won the vote with about 52 percent, according to several estimates from polling firms based on ballot samples, becoming France's first Socialist president since Francois Mitterrand left office in 1995.

Sarkozy quickly conceded defeat and signalled that he intends to step back from front-line politics.

"The French people have made their choice... Francois

Hollande is president of France and he must be respected," the outgoing leader told an emotional crowd of supporters, adding that he had wished his successor well.

"In this new era, I will remain one of you, but my place will no longer be the same. My engagement with the life of my country will now be different, but time will never strain the bonds between us," he told supporters.

Sarkozy stopped short of confirming his retirement, but leaders in his right-wing UMP party told AFP that he had told them he would not lead them into June's parliamentary elections.

The French vote coincides with an election in Greece, where exit polls showed the country's two main parties suffering big losses for landing the country in its bleak economic state.

Culturalization of Citizenship Conference begins today

During the first week of December, 2011, Aruba hosted the inaugural Happy Community Conference, a three-program dedicated to the concepts and mechanics of community-building. Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman has expressed his belief that Communitarianism, and stimulating wide participation in civic networks will generate the productivity and cooperation needed from all Arubans in the attainment of economic and social sustainability for the island.

The next step in the process begins today at 3:30 PM at the University of Aruba with the opening of the Culturalization of Citizenship Seminar-Comparative Perspectives, which is aimed at understanding and embracing all the various nationalities and ethnic groups of which the Aruban population is now comprised. Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) of the U of A, Dr. Paula Kibbelaar, in announcing the upcoming seminar remarked that the subject needed to be addressed and elevated beyond casual conversation, as it is a topic very much on the mind of most islanders. This is also an NWO (Dutch Scientific Organization) research project conducted within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The findings of this research project will be presented during the day sessions of the conference to the invited participants, which will be conducted in "roundtable" workshop, fashion.

The 2010 Census revealed that nearly 1/3 of Aruba's permanent population, among those legally registered, are not born here. Culturalization of Citizenship is not only a concept of allowing the migrant population to live on the island, but instilling a sense of welcome, country and community that



PM Mike Eman, Dr Glenn Thode and Dr Paula Kibbelaar

will tap into their desire to contribute and be involved, so to utilize what they bring to Aruba to better insure its future prosperity, economically and socially.

Guest speakers include Professor Dr. Evelien Tonkens of the University of Amsterdam, who was a very well received presenter at the Happy Community Conference in December, Professor Dr. Peter Geschiere, Roger Van Reekum, MA, and Dr. Francio Guadalupe, also from the University of Amsterdam, and Chris Huinder, MA, from the Forum Institute for Multicultural Affairs, Utrecht.

Local presenters during the two-day conference ending tomorrow evening are Profes-

sor Dr. Ryan Peterson of the U of A, Benny Sevinger, Minister of Integration, Infrastructure and Environment, Drs. Martijn Balkstein, Acting Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Dr. Luc Alofs, anthropologist and historian, and Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman. University of Aruba Rector Glenn Thode expressed the faculty's enthusiasm for being a part of this cooperative effort and its goals for the island community.

The day time sessions are by invitation only, but organizers encourage all interested parties to attend a final public event beginning tomorrow at 7:00 PM in university's main auditorium.

Continued on page 3



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Aruba welcomes WestJet



Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar and Robert Palmer cut the ribbon

Aruba's Minister of Economic & Social Affairs & Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, was very pleased to stand in for Minister of Tourism Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, while cutting the ribbon for the inaugural arrival of WestJet Airlines yesterday afternoon in the VIP Lounge of the Reina Beatrix International Airport.

Sharing the honors with her was WestJet Manager of Media Relations, Robert Palmer, who was proud to announce their inaugural flight of weekly Sunday non-stop service from Toronto, Canada on a 166-seat Boeing 737-800, was booked to capacity.

"I have just been listening



A gift from WestJet to Aruba

to a man from Canada who has been traveling to Aruba

seven times a year to a home he has here, and been a loyal visitor for 17 years," recounted Mr. Palmer. "He told me he has been lobbying for this direct service and is delighted we now provide it."

WestJet, is the second-largest Canadian air carrier, behind Air Canada, operating an average of 425 flights and carrying over 45,000 passengers per day. Aruba has the distinction of now being their southernmost destination.

Mr. Palmer and a contingent of Canadian travel agents on the flight were officially welcomed by the Minister along with CEO of

the Aruba Airport Authority, Peter Steinmetz, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority and Jim Hepple, CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, AHATA along with Colleen LesSard, ATA Sales Manager for Canada. Following the ribbon cutting, there was an exchange of gifts, a tradition with inaugural services, and a toast of blue colored champagne, the company colors of WestJet.

Continued on page 4

RBC Royal Bank presents Art Rules Aruba #3



On July 6th, 2012 the biggest and most successful Arts Program Art Rules Aruba will return to the Island off Aruba with its 3rd edition.

Summer is around the corner and for the youth on the Island of Aruba this can only mean one thing.....Get ready guys, Art Rules Aruba is back!

As the biggest and most successful Educational Art Program of Aruba returns for the 3rd time, RBC Royal Bank and The Pancake Gallery Foundation welcome all of Aruba's young aspiring talents to come and experience the most exhilarating summer Arts project ever!

Art Rules Aruba also known as ARA launched in 2010, soon becoming the number one Arts project for teens between 13-26 has since then grown to become the most participated youth program on

Aruba during the summer.

With the support of the Aruban community, Art Rules Aruba has been able to offer workshops in 10 different Art Disciplines, thought by more than 20 professional artists from 10 different cities around the world, to almost 400 Aruban teens!

Workshops were offered in DJ, Theater, Dance, Rap & Poetry, Painting & Fine Arts, Photography, Fashion Design and Mural Painting, which also meant that Art Rules Aruba found a way to reach all types of individuals from different backgrounds, cultures, ages, and interests. Art Rules Aruba has become a place for the youth to cultivate their artistic talent, learn new skills and perspectives, all the while shaping their identity in the most hard-working, disciplined yet fun and exiting way.

Continued on page 3



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British Virgin Islands forms new council with European's Caribbean territories

-- The British Virgin Islands has signed an agreement to form a new body aimed at fostering greater cooperation between the British and Dutch territories in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council includes the BVI, An-

guilla, Aruba, Bonaire, Cayman, Curacao, Montserrat and Sint Maarten as members, with Saba and Sint Eustatius inducted as associate members.

Curacao will be the chairman of the executive body of the council, with Cayman as vice chair and the BVI as secretariat.

BVI Deputy Premier Dr Kedrick Pickering said regional cooperation, particularly between overseas territories in the Caribbean, was "very important and necessary," given changing global economic conditions and the small size of the territories individually

Art Rules Aruba #3

Continued from page 2

Produced by Ira Kip and Ayra Kip, also known as The Pancake Gallery Foundation, the twin sisters are returning this year with what they say "our best team ever!"

"We wanted the best for the youth of Aruba, offering them as much of our resources as we can". This year we are not holding back, we went from Aruba, to London, Canada, New York, San Francisco, Suriname even Sweden and back, to get the best people to the Island and teach our youth, our future, the best which we can offer them".

With the signature support of RBC Royal Bank, this years Art Rules Aruba is indeed expected to be the best yet. The Pancake Gallery confirms to have locked in designers from Calvin Klein, top dancers from Europe and Canada, Award winning actors and one of America's most watched fine artist and painter just to name a few. This year Art Rules Aruba also adds a very special new edition and teacher (dis-

covered by Idols' Randy Jackson) to offer this years newest Bonus Workshop "Music & Performing".

The program that launches on the 6th of July will run through July 20th with a special final showcase at Cas Di Cultura on July 21st.

For information on the program, the disciplines, how to apply and more, visit www.artrulesaruba.com and make sure to like the Art Rules Aruba Facebook page for daily updates, diaries and exclusives.

Culturalization of Citizenship Conference begins

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The topic for the evening will be "Perils and Pearls of Belonging." There will be a short welcome reception with refreshments prior to the panel discussion by Prof. Dr. Peter Geschiere, Dr. Francio Guadeloupe, Dr. Luck Alofs and Aruba's Minister of Social and Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, which will be chaired by Evelien Tonkens, ending with an audience Q & A. It will be

followed by an informal discussion period during the farewell reception in the university courtyard.

The entire program will be conducted in English; those interested in the agenda and learning more about the speakers and their qualifications can view this at: <http://www.happycommunity.aw/seminar-culturalization-of-citizenship.php>

by Rosalie Klein



Breakfast Station

- Resort Baked Breakfast Breads and Pastries to include Pound Cake, Banana Bread, Assorted Muffins and Danish
- Tropical Fresh Fruits
- Fluffy Scrambled Eggs
- Crisp Bacon & Link Sausages
- Caribbean Breakfast Potatoes
- Omelets prepared to order with a Variety of Fillings

Soup Station

- Seafood Chowder

Salad Station

- Caesar and Condiments
- Watermelon and Feta Cheese Salad
- Red Beet Salad
- Potato Egg Salad
- Antipasto Salad
- Waldorf Chicken Salad
- Tomato Basil Salad and Extra Virgin Oil

Seafood Station

- Aruban Seafood Salad Ceviche with Shrimp, Scallops, Local Fish, Cilantro and Lime
- Display of Peel 'N' Eat Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce and Lemon Wedges
- Display of Smoked Salmon, Bagels and Cream Cheese

Carving Station

- Beef Tenderloin crusted with Larimar Herbs, Horseradish Pesto Cream and Au Jus

Gourmet Entrees

- Local Favorite Keshi Yena
- Grouper with Creole sauce
- Glazed Ham with Tropical Salsa
- Grilled Chicken Breast with a Creamy Mustard sauce
- Tortellini with Sundried Tomato sauce
- Fresh Mixed Vegetables
- Jasmine Rice

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Buy your tickets by Friday May 11th and participate in a raffle for a free mother's day weekend! The drawing takes place Friday at 12 noon and the winner may check in at 4 pm on the same day! More door prizes during brunch! For reservation & information please contact Marvinia Richardson at 526-6607 or email at Marvinia.richardson@radisson.com

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Stranded in Time

by Roland W. Peterson

*During the day, I stand
At night, I loom*

*Once, I towered
High and mighty, proud
and powerful
For I was needed
I was appreciated
I was seen*

*War was waged and
won
And I stood, firmly*

*Passersby stopped and
languished in my
shadow, swapping
juicy tales of hearsay
and gossip
And I stood, unperturbed*

*But, then, as the sun
rose and set
As the moon waxed and waned
As the tides ebbed and flowed
Something changed*

*People no longer looked at me
They looked passed me
I became part of the background
I became ... obsolete
Ignored
Discarded
Sold for one florin*

*One morning, men came and erected a
fence around me
A shabby, sloppy fence, with some
messy, ugly signs
They said that I was dangerous
They said that I was falling apart*

*Ah, my heart cries out
But I won't let them sense my sorrow
I may shed some of my plaster
But I will not tremble
I will stand firm*

*I realize now that when you get old,
and are no longer needed, you pass
into oblivion
You pass into the netherworld of
neglect and dilapidation, into the
limbo of despair*



*A photographer came
and took my picture
To be placed in a calendar,
she said
So now I am immortalized
among shabby
fences and misspelled
warning signs
Great
First, you take my dignity
Then you wound my vanity*

*I have a brother who
lives in Oranjestad
I have never met him
But they say we look alike*

*Lately, I think of him
often
There are just two of us
on this island, you now*

Just two Water Towers, stranded in time

*In my dreams, I see him and talk to him
I tell him that he is lofty and majestic
I tell him not to waver
I tell him that he is not alone
I tell him that I, too, am standing firm*

Today May 7th 2012
*Finally after being stranded in time
there is movement around me
They have scratched my skin
and closed my wounds
Rest assured your water tower
has never trembled
and will always stand
firm to serve you.*



Curaçao suspends secret service over coup

WILLEMSTAD -- Curaçao's government has suspended its secret service saying some of

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its members planned to stage a coup in 2010.

On Friday, Prime Minister Gerrit Schotte announced that all secret service staff had been sent home but would remain on stand-by. A crisis team is to investigate the Caribbean island's secret service, the VDC, with the help of the Dutch intelligence service, the AIVD, the prime minister said.

Mr Schotte stressed that the VDC was not being placed under AIVD supervision. The Dutch service confirmed it would only provide "professional assistance."

Since the island government's installation two years ago, the secret service has been rocked by a number of scandals. Secret documents were leaked to the media in one case. In another, it emerged that in 2010 there had been plans to destroy certain dossiers.

The prime minister accused the opposition of orchestrating the coup plot but he refused to mention any names. He urged the parliamentary parties to order a parliamentary inquiry.

Curaçao has been a separate country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands since 2010.

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Aruba welcomes WestJet

Continued from page 2



Peter Steinmetz, Robert Palmer, Minister Hooyboer, Ronellas Tjin Asjoe and Jim Hepple

All parties involved expressed their optimism for the success of the new service, and the potential and interest of the Canadian market for regular service to Aruba.

Mr. Palmer expressed he hoped to see many Arubans take advantage of this service and come to discover Canada's charms as well. Some excellent introductory rates are now being offered, and interested parties can inquire with their travel agent or at



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by Rosalie Klein

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Ultimate Automobiles introduces the 2012 Suzuki Swift Sport



At first glance, it looks like not much has changed with Suzuki's Swift Sport. It's still powered by a naturally-aspirated 1.6 litre engine, still front-wheel-drive only and still dressed in a retina-searing yellow.

But delve a little deeper, and the changes become more apparent - and more significant.

That 1.6 liter petrol four-pot is a new design, and produces 100kW and 160Nm - 8kW and 12Nm more than the old motor.

It doesn't sound like

much, but the new ZC32S Swift Sport is also 30kg lighter than the car it replaces. That boosts its power-to-weight ratio from 11.8kg/kW to 10.6kg/kW - a respectable improvement.

The outgoing car's five-speed manual has also been replaced with a six-speed, and, for the first time ever, the Swift Sport is also available with an automatic - a CVT with seven 'virtual' ratios and paddle shifters.

There's also an enhanced standard equipment list, not to mention greatly improved

interior quality.

The dashboard, door cards and headliner are shared with the Swift GLX, but the Sport gets its own unique instrument cluster, alloy pedals, red-stitched leather steering wheel and heavily-bolstered front sports seats.

The Swift Sport is specced quite well, and comes standard with a proximity key, push-button starter, HID headlamps, foglamps, cruise control, Bluetooth, climate control, a six-speaker audio system with a USB input and iPod integration, and a trip computer.

In order to save weight, the space saver spare wheel of the regular Swift has been swapped for an inflator kit. The Drive

The new M16A engine might be small, but it's got a rev-happy personality and a reasonably strong mid range.

It features variable valve-timing and a variable-length inlet manifold, and the function of both is to fatten the torque curve without compromising top-end power.

They definitely work; the

Sport picks up cleanly from low rpm and sings all the way to a 7000rpm redline. You can feel the effect of the variable-length manifold between 4000 and 4500rpm, but aside from that little 'step' the power delivery is very linear.

The six-speed gearbox has closely-spaced ratios to help make the most of the engine's

100kW and 160Nm, and the clutch is light and the shifter-throw not too long.

The 2012 Suzuki Swift Sport is available at Ultimate Automobiles, exclusive dealers on Aruba for Suzuki cars.

For more information and to view them, visit the Ultimate Automobiles showroom at Sabana Blanco #35, or call 583-9800.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Biden: US ready to expedite Chinese activist's visa

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States will grant Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng a visa as soon as he applies for one, and expects Beijing to stand by its promises, Vice President Joe Biden said Sunday.

Biden told NBC television that Washington wanted to help Chen take up the offer of a fellowship from New York University.

"We're prepared to give a visa right away. He's going to be able to take his family. We expect the Chinese to stick to that commitment," Biden said.

Chen is at the center of a major diplomatic wrangle between China and the United States after he escaped harsh house arrest in the eastern province of Shandong late last month and sought refuge at the US embassy in Beijing.

He has been offered the fellowship but injuries sustained during his flight and official restrictions on access to him

have prevented him from completing the necessary formalities to leave.

Chen yesterday appealed for official help to leave China, saying he was effectively blocked in his hospital bed in Beijing.

"Now I have notified the hospital to invite them (government officials) to help me do the procedures. I really don't have a way," he told AFP in a telephone interview.

"It's even difficult for me to get out of bed and my other friends cannot come, so I have no way. They (US diplomats) have come, but they can't see me."

The delicate diplomatic standoff over Chen's move to seek sanctuary in the US embassy in Beijing and his later request to leave China, became fodder on the presidential campaign trail.

The president's presumed White House rival, Mitt Romney suggested in a sharp cri-

tique last week that the administration had mishandled the Chen affair by allowing the dissident to leave the embassy before it was completely clear that he and his family faced no threat of retaliation and truly wanted to stay in China.

"This is a dark day for freedom and it's a day of shame for the Obama administration. We are a place of freedom, here and around the world, and we should stand up and defend freedom wherever it is under attack," Romney said last week.

But speaking on ABC television Sunday, President Barack Obama's campaign strategist David Axelrod dismissed the criticism, saying "we want to help Mr Chen achieve his goal, which is to come here, and we want to do it in accordance with our values, and we want to be successful in doing that. And we're making some progress in that regard," Axelrod said.

MOSCOW : Russian Police officers detain opposition supporters during a rally in Moscow on May 6, 2012.

Russian riot police violently clashed with protesters at a rally on the eve of strongman Vladimir Putin's return for a third Kremlin term, arresting over 250 people including opposition leaders.

The clashes just over the river from the Kremlin were the most violent since the first rallies against the Russian strongman began in December and set an omi-



nous tone ahead of his glitzy presidential inaugu-

ration ceremony today . (AFP PHOTO)

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Biden dangles prospect of teaming with Hillary in '16

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Vice President Joe Biden, who is preparing to embark on the 2012 re-election campaign trail, suggested yesterday he might be interested in running in 2016 -- paired on a ticket with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"I think we may run as a team," Biden teased in an interview on NBC television to discuss his political future as President Barack Obama's right hand man in the White House, during the campaign leading to November's presidential election, and beyond.

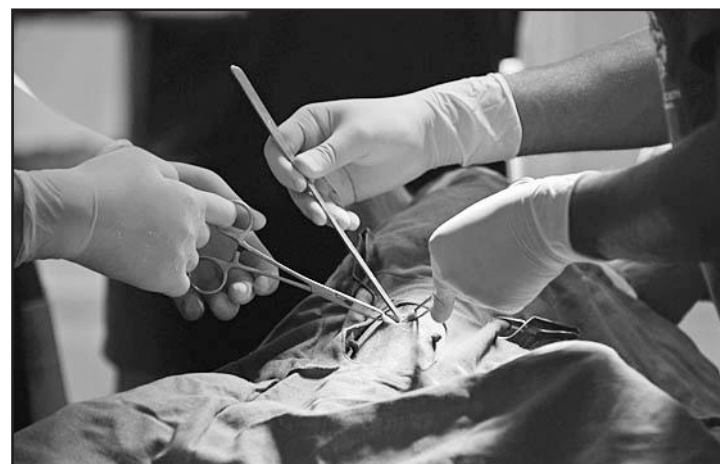
"I'm only joking obviously. I don't know. I don't know whether I'm going to run and Hillary doesn't know whether she's going to run," the Demo-

crat stressed.

So far Clinton, who ran a tight campaign against Obama in 2008 in a failed bid to win the Democratic Party nomination, has so far strenuously ruled out making any further bid for the White House.

What he can declare with 100 percent certainty, Biden said, is that he will be Obama's 2012 running mate, despite speculation the president would try to strengthen the ticket's appeal by choosing Clinton instead.

"There is no question about it. There's no way out. They've already printed Obama-Biden (campaign posters)" he said. "You are looking at the vice presidential candidate of the United States of America."



INDIA, Srinagar : Veterinarians and assistants perform sterilisation surgery on a street dog in Srinagar. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation, in collaboration with the Animal welfare board of India, is conducting a sterilisation drive for dogs in the Kashmiri capital where an estimated 100,000 canines roam the streets. (AFP PHOTO)

Hollande: Austerity no longer 'only option' for Europe

TULLE (AFP) - France's president-elect Francois Hollande warned fellow European leaders yesterday that he would push ahead with his vow to re-focus EU fiscal efforts from austerity to growth.

"Europe is watching us," Hollande told cheering supporters shortly after his defeat of right-wing incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy was confirmed.

"I am sure that when the result was announced, in many European countries there was relief, hope and the notion that finally

austerity can no longer be the only option." And this is the mission that is now mine -- to give the European project a dimension of growth, employment, prosperity, in short, a future.

"This is what I will say as soon as possible to our European partners and first of all to Germany, in the name of the friendship that links us and in the name of our shared responsibility. We are not just any country on the planet, just any nation in the world, we are France."

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Aquino vows to arrest suspects in Philippine blast

Manila (AFP) - Philippine President Benigno Aquino promised yesterday security forces would arrest the culprits behind a grenade attack that left two people dead and at least 19 others hurt in the troubled south.

Aquino sought to allay public fears after the blast in a popular restaurant district in Iligan city on Saturday.

"If you are listening right now, it's better that you surrender now because we will not stop pursuing you and we will catch you," Aquino told reporters in a message to the attackers.

Aquino said a grenade was used in the attack and the man

who threw it escaped in a van, but he did not specify a motive, saying police were working on two possibilities. He did not identify any group behind the attack.

He said the government's intelligence arm was assessing security threats across the country and was on constant alert.

Iligan lies on the north coast of Mindanao island. The region has been mired in a decades-long Muslim insurgency as well as bombings and kidnappings by Abu Sayyaf, a group founded with seed money from late Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden in the 1990s.

Hope fades for Nepal flood victims, toll may hit 60

KATHMANDU (AFP) - Rescuers scouring Nepal's central Annapurna region after severe flash flooding said yesterday that there was almost no hope of finding survivors and that the final death toll could be more than 60.

The bodies of 17 people have been recovered but district police superintendent Sailesh Thapa told AFP that 47 missing people, including three Ukrainian tourists, were feared dead.

Just eight people have been

rescued since the Seti burst its banks near the city of Pokhara, a popular tourist hub, on Saturday, sweeping away an entire village, and swamping families enjoying picnics on the river banks. Most of the missing are thought to be local.

Sniffer dogs have been sent 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the capital Kathmandu to search for bodies along the banks of the river, which has now subsided, while police and army personnel hunted for survivors.

Tornado kills teenager in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) - A tornado ripped through eastern Japan yesterday, killing a teenager, destroying dozens of homes and cutting power to around 20,000 households.

"A 14-year-old male died" as a result of the tornado, said a spokesman at the disaster headquarters of Tsukuba city in Ibaraki prefecture, roughly 60 kilometres (37 miles) north-east of Tokyo.

The exact cause of the death was not immediately clear, but he was among 15 people whom rescue workers rushed to hospitals immediately after the twister, the city government said.

It added that 21 other people also sought medical care for tornado-related injuries in the city, and said it had asked Self Defense Force troops to help with rescue and relief operations.

"The figure is only a temporary tally. We believe the number for injuries could rise," the spokesman said.

The Tsukuba fire and emergency bureau said 30 to 50 houses were destroyed by the tornado, with many more damaged.

Moka city in neighbouring



Tochigi prefecture reported one injury and damage to 132 buildings after it was hit by a separate apparent tornado.

A number of minor injuries were also reported in Tochigi, while a swathe of eastern Japan was battered by strong winds, hail, lightning and heavy rain.

In total, tornadoes damaged roughly 500 houses and buildings in the Kanto region, including Ibaraki and Tochigi, said the online editions of national broadcaster NHK and the mass-circulation Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper.

Television footage from Tsukuba showed houses swept

from their foundations, overturned cars in muddy debris and fallen concrete power poles.

Aerial images showed possibly hundreds of houses and apartments with shattered glass windows, many of them with their roofs blown away.

Japan's weather agency issued warnings for a wide region in the east of the country, urging people to seek shelter in case of sudden winds and thunder.

The severe winds caused a power outage for nearly 20,000 households in the region, said a spokeswoman for Tokyo Electric Power.

FARC confirm taking French reporter hostage

COLOMBIA -- : Video grab shot on May 5, 2012 and released on May 6 shows Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) commander Ancizar, alias Monazo, reading a statement written on April 30, confirming they have got French journalist Romeo Langlois as a 'prisoner of war' and that he indeed suffered a bullet wound to one of his arms but has been treated and is out of danger, somewhere in the Colombian jungle in the southern province of Caqueta.

Langlois, a 35-year-old reporter for global television network France 24 who had been



accompanying soldiers who destroyed five cocaine production labs, went missing on April 28, 2012 after a firefight between security forces and

the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in the south of the country.

AFP PHOTO

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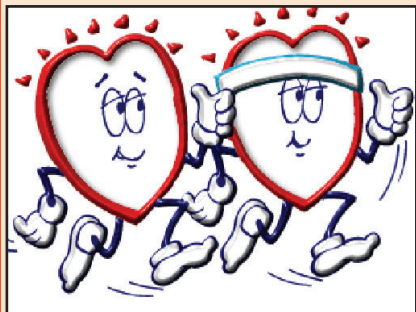
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HEALTH & LIVING

Exercise can improve your mood, stamina and sex life

How many more reasons do you need to get moving?



Exercise controls weight

Exercise can help prevent excess weight gain or help maintain weight loss. When you engage in physical activity, you burn calories. The more intense the activity, the more calories you burn. You don't need to set

aside large chunks of time for exercise to reap weight-loss benefits. If you can't do an actual workout, get more active throughout the day in simple ways — by taking the stairs instead of the elevator or revving up your household chores.

Exercise combats health conditions and diseases

Worried about heart disease? Hoping to prevent high blood pressure? No matter what your current weight, being active boosts high-density lipoprotein (HDL), or "good," cholesterol and decreases unhealthy triglycerides. This one-two punch keeps your blood flowing smoothly, which decreases your risk of cardiovascular diseases. In fact, regular physical activity can help you prevent or manage a wide range of health problems and concerns, including stroke, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes, depression, certain types of cancer, arthritis and falls.

Exercise improves mood

Need an emotional lift? Or need to blow off some steam after a stressful day? A workout at the gym or a brisk 30-minute walk can help. Physical activity stimulates various brain chemicals that may leave you feeling happier and more relaxed.

Exercise boosts energy

Winded by grocery shopping or household chores? Regular physical activity can improve your muscle strength and boost your endurance.

Exercise promotes better sleep

Struggling to fall asleep? Or to stay asleep? Regular physical activity can help you fall asleep faster and deepen your sleep. Just don't exercise too close to bedtime, or you may be too energized to fall asleep.

Exercise puts the spark back into your sex life

Do you feel too tired or too out of shape to enjoy physical intimacy? Regular physical activity can leave you feeling energized and looking better, which may have a positive effect on your sex life. But there's more to it than that. Regular physical activity can lead to enhanced arousal for women. And men who exercise regularly are less likely to have problems with erectile dysfunction than are men who don't exercise.

Exercise can be fun

Exercise and physical activity can be a fun way to spend some time. Find a physical activity you enjoy, and just do it. If you get bored, try something new.

Fertility treatment babies prone to serious defects



Davies, calling for further research.

More than 3.7 million babies are born every year as a result of fertility treatment.

The survey, which researchers said was the most comprehensive of its kind yet, found that not all treatments were equally risky.

The scientists noted birth defects in 7.2 percent of children born from in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) and 9.9 percent from intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI).

For IVF, the percentage dropped significantly when taking into consideration factors like parental age, smoking and other factors, but for ICSI it remained high.

ICSI, in which a sperm cell is injected directly into an egg, is a form of IVF --

which involves the fertilisation of an egg outside the body, in a laboratory.

Davies said there were several theories on why ICSI was more risky -- possibly involving the use of damaged sperm or damage caused by manipulation of the sperm and egg in the lab.

With IVF, the sperm entered the egg of its own accord.

"There are factors associated with ICSI that require further research," he said.

The researchers also found a tripling of risk in women using clomiphene citrate, a drug for ovulation induction.

"While confined to a small group in our study, this is of particular concern as clomiphene citrate is now very widely available at low cost," said Davies.

PARIS (AFP) - Children conceived with the aid of fertility treatments are more likely to be born with serious physical defects, according an Australian study published recently.

Conception using treatments like ovulation induction, in-vitro fertilisation or the injection of sperm directly into an egg, resulted in serious defects in 8.3 percent of cases studied, the research team said.

The corresponding ratio in spontaneous conceptions was 5.8 percent -- a "very" significant difference, lead researcher Michael Davies told AFP of the University of Adelaide study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"Something that is not often talked about in the clinic, I suspect, is the risk of having an abnormal baby. And so this emphasises this is something that must be talked about between patients and clinicians.

"They must discuss the risk for this when choosing the treatment."

Davies, from the university's Robinson Institute for fertility, said the research had focused on serious defects, "things that either require treatment or if there is no treatment they are going to be considered 'handicapping', like a heart condition or cerebral palsy.

The study covered 308,974 births registered in South Australia between January 1986 and December 2002, of which 6,163 had resulted from assisted conception.

"I don't think there is any reason it wouldn't be applicable to the majority of clinics around the world," said

Bayer challenges India cancer drug ruling

GERMANY--German pharmaceutical giant Bayer AG has challenged a groundbreaking Indian ruling that allowed a local firm to produce a vastly cheaper copy of its patented drug for kidney and liver cancer.

India's patents chief ruled in March the price Bayer charged for the drug, Nexavar, was "exorbitant" and ordered the firm to give a so-called "compulsory licence" to make the medicine to Indian company Natco Pharma.

"We will rigorously continue to defend our intellectual property rights which are a prerequisite for bringing innovative medicines to patients," Bayer spokesman Alope Pradhan told AFP in an emailed statement this past weekend.

Drug firms insist they need patent protection for medicines to recoup costs of long years of research and development.

Under the World Trade Organization's TRIPS Agreement, which governs trade and intellectual property rules, compulsory licences are a legally recognised means to overcome barriers in accessing affordable medicines.

The Indian ruling in March marked the first time a so-called "compulsory licence" for production of a patented drug had been granted in the country of 1.2 billion, known as a global generics drug powerhouse.

But after a new patent law was introduced in 2005, newer medicines are increasingly being patented in India, keeping prices high.

Under the ruling, Natco will pay Bayer a six percent royalty on sales of the drug and sell the medicine for 8,800 rupees (\$165) a month -- compared to the 280,000 rupees (\$5,320) the company charges, which is more than 30 times as much.



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Aussie, 97, becomes 'world's oldest graduate'



SYDNEY (AFP) - A 97-year-old retired Australian dentist was to receive his masters degree in clinical science on Friday in what Southern Cross University said could make him the world's oldest new graduate.

Allan Stewart, born on March 7, 1915, is already the holder of the Guinness World Records title for being the oldest graduate after completing a law degree in 2006 at the age of 91.

It was not immediately clear whether anyone older had graduated since.

"I think I can hang up my mortar board and academic robes after this one -- although I said that after my last degree and then I got bored," said Stewart, from Port Stephens, north of Sydney, ahead of his graduation ceremony.

"I have so much time on my hands these days and I like to keep mentally active."

The clinical science masters is the fourth degree for the great-grandfather, who began his university studies in the 1930s with a degree in dentistry.

After a long career as a dentist, during which time he became a Doctor of Dental Surgery on completion of his second degree, Stewart decided in his eighties to study law to help keep his mind active.

"As I approached the age

of 90 I realised that time was of the essence and I had better get a wriggle on in case I didn't make my graduation," he said.

"So I attended extra summer schools and managed to complete the six-year course in four-and-a-half years, graduating in 2006. Turns out I needn't have rushed."

Stewart, who walks daily and meditates regularly, keeps his mind alert by reading medical textbooks and crime novels and playing bridge.

Stewart, has six children and now has 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, is modest about his achievements.

"Oh, it's nothing really, I have just been blessed with good genes," he said.

"At this stage of my life I truly live one day at a time."

SpaceX boss admits sleep elusive before ISS launch

Elon Musk, the Internet entrepreneur and owner of SpaceX, which aims to be the first private firm to send a cargo craft to the International Space Station, admits he has a case of pre-launch jitters.

In an interview with AFP, Musk described the oft-delayed launch of his company's cargo-loaded Dragon spacecraft -- now pushed back to May 19 -- as both "exciting" and "extremely difficult," and expressed confidence in his team.

"It's just taking longer than expected to analyze all the data," Musk told AFP by telephone. "We need to make sure that the software is going to make the right commands and not endanger the space station."

SpaceX made history with its Dragon launch in December 2010, becoming the first commercial outfit to send a spacecraft into orbit and back.

This time, the gumdrop-shaped Dragon capsule will carry 521 kilograms (1,148 pounds) of cargo for the space lab and will also aim to return a 660-kilo load to Earth.

The attempt to send the spacecraft from Cape Canaveral, Florida to the orbiting research lab has been

repeatedly delayed, most recently from a planned May 7 launch date, and earlier on April 30.

The latest delay is to ensure that there are no glitches in the craft's software.

eMusic Android app



If there was ever an app that worked exactly how it was intended, the eMusic app is it.

Every bit of the eMusic service is available in this app. You can buy, download and stream music, you can browse their entire library and sample songs, you can listen to special eMusic playlists, and you can even sign-up for the service and manage your account, all without ever entering a web browser.

If you're not familiar with eMusic, basically it's a subscription service for music. You pay a certain amount per month, and you get to download that amount's worth of music. The key here is that most of the songs available on the service are cheaper than on iTunes or Amazon, but the trade off is that those services have a much larger selection of popular music than eMusic does. You'd want to use eMusic for the indie stuff, essentially.

Dubai plans underwater hotel made of submerged discs

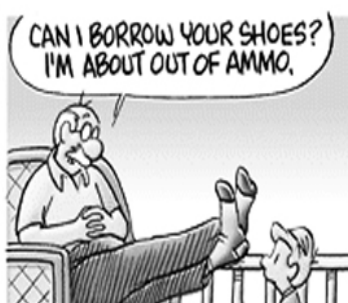


To say that the city of Dubai — located in the United Arab Emirates — is a playground for the wealthy would be a gross understatement. The urban wonderland is home to some of the most extravagant displays of affluence on Earth, so a new hotel popping up wouldn't normally make headlines. But when the hotel will send guests to rooms located 10 meters below the sea, well, that changes things. Apparently bored with the blasé above-ground digs available all over the city, a Deep Ocean Technology is making your submarine dreams a reality with "Discus," a resort for people who prefer look at some lush ocean life over a crowded cityscape. When construction is completed, Discus will feature a large, above-water disc — complete with a helipad, of course — where visitors can enjoy food, drink, and any other pleasure money can buy. Then, when night falls, guests can retreat down to the massive underwater portion of the resort where the extravagant suites reside. Rooms will feature floor-to-ceiling views of underwater splendor, and the wealthy tourists who can afford a room will be treated not only to aquatic plants and animals, but also the calming quiet of being 10 meters below the hustle and bustle of oceanside life. The Discus project doesn't have a firm completion date yet.



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COMICS



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ACROSS

1. Mink or sable
4. Actress Lupino
7. From ___ to stern
11. Compass letters
12. Ponder
14. Macadamize
15. Tricky curve
16. Governmental
18. Training exercises
20. Rocker Jon ___ Jovi
21. Install carpeting
22. Passes out the cards again
26. Ferry dock
28. Telephone

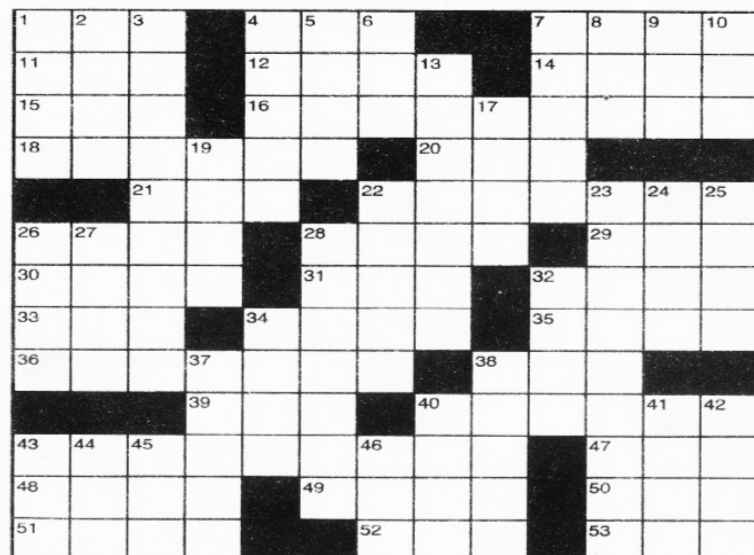
29. Before dee
30. Weeding tools
31. ___ bran
32. Read rapidly
33. Long, long time
34. Opie's paw
35. Northeaster
36. Reaches a goal
38. Mom's man
39. Before (prefix)
40. Boring tools
43. Stuff and nonsense
47. Fishing snare
48. Dog's appendage

49. Squirrel's high rise?
50. Federal power inits.
51. Like a Bohemian
52. Product placements
53. ID digits

DOWN

1. Nurture
2. "Back in the ___"
3. Elastic
4. Suggest
5. Pairs
6. "___ aboard!"
7. Book part
8. Sea-___

- (Seattle airport)
9. Actress Mendes
10. Actor-director Brooks
13. The Statue of ___
17. Producer Mike
19. Swimmer's exercises
22. Motorways
23. Spills, e.g.
24. Slender
25. E-mail command
26. Former NL stadium
27. Money from a robbery
28. ___ the dots (game)
32. Burglar's haul
34. Like lemon chiffon
37. Submit a résumé
38. Certain noblemen
40. Scored 100%
41. Guns the engine
42. Baseball's Musial
43. "Harper Valley ___"
44. Rowing device
45. Prune center
46. "Are you a man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)



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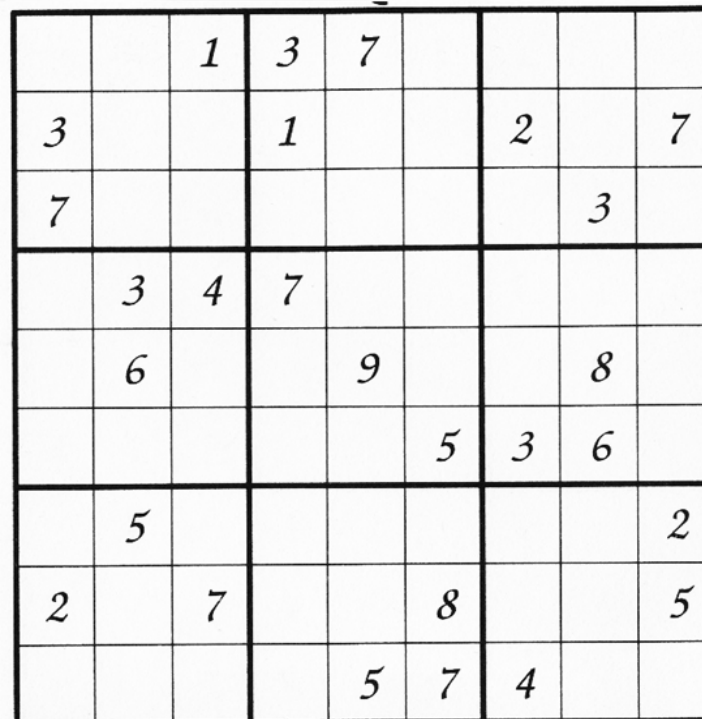
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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3	9	5	1	8	6	2	4	7
7	2	6	5	4	9	1	3	8
8	3	4	7	6	1	5	2	9
5	6	2	4	9	3	7	8	1
1	7	9	8	2	5	3	6	4
9	5	3	6	1	4	8	7	2
2	4	7	9	3	8	6	1	5
6	1	8	2	5	7	4	9	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9




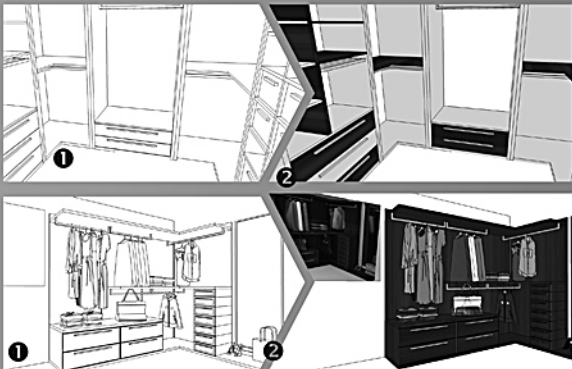
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Growth is the question, reforms are the key: EU analysts

PARIS (AFP) - The contours of recession and recovery inside the EU will be drawn with forecasts this week and a quarterly snapshot next week, setting the scene for an informal summit on growth likely by the end of May.

The new data, together with leading indicators from eurozone businesses, will keep financial markets on edge, the European Central Bank on watch and political controversy about austerity versus growth on the boil.

The austerity-growth dilemma has come to a head, pitching so-called supply-side economics, based on sound budgets and a drive for efficiency, against calls for extra stimulus to counter the drag of cutbacks.

The stimulus camp got a major boost with the election as French president yesterday of Francois Hollande, who made an EU growth pact the signature initiative of his campaign.

"Austerity is a powerful medicine," said Berenberg Bank economist Holger Schmieding. "If applied intelligently, it lays the basis for more competitiveness and higher growth in the future."

"But too much of a good medicine can weaken the patient," he noted.

European Union officials issue spring forecasts this week, and first-quarter growth data possibly showing recession the following week.

Leading indicators on Friday signalled that eurozone private sector activity continues to contract, just as protests against budgetary reforms and appeals for stimulus increase in countries undergoing radical structural reforms to fight debt.

The "stimulus measures implemented by the European Central Bank have not had a lasting impact on the real economy", said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit research firm which published the indicators.

While ensuring that low inflation is the ECB's sole policy

objective, its chief Mario Draghi called Thursday for putting "growth back at the centre of the agenda".

But he indicated that a further rate cut or special measures like the massive one trillion euro liquidity injection which temporarily calmed markets are not currently on the cards.

Special ECB action "cannot replace ... either fiscal consolidation or reforms as the way back to stability," added Draghi.

However analysts believe the ECB may reevaluate its stance after the latest batch of data.

"In our view, the May round of business surveys will be key to assess the risk of conventional easing in the coming months," said Marco Valli at UniCredit.

Draghi also detailed his views on a "growth compact", which has become the focus of discussion following the signing in March of the EU's new fiscal compact requiring greater budget rigour.

"There is absolutely no contradiction between a growth compact and a fiscal compact," he said of the debate between growth and austerity.

Draghi warned that a slowdown in painful budget cuts would "not be very much help" in restoring growth.

Finance

Buffett plays down health concern, mulled megadeal

OMAHA, Nebraska - Warren Buffett tried to allay fears of Berkshire Hathaway Inc shareholders about the company's future after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and revealed that he recently tried to make one of the biggest acquisitions of his storied career.

Buffett on Saturday said that he recently considered a more than \$20 billion acquisition, and would have sold some Berkshire stock holdings he wanted to keep to get it done.

"I wish we could have made it," he said. "It could happen. I don't think it will happen."

Buffett did not name the target. A takeover of that magnitude would have been close in size to Berkshire's biggest takeover -- the \$26.5 billion purchase of railroad company

Burlington Northern Santa Fe in 2010.

It would have also dented Berkshire's \$37.83 billion cash hoard. Buffett said he wants to keep \$20 billion on hand. Berkshire has about 80 operating units, which sell such things as car insurance, chemicals, clothing, furniture and ice cream.

The question of who will succeed Buffett, 81, as chief executive became more of an imperative after Buffett disclosed the diagnosis on April 17.

While Buffett called it "a really minor event," his early-stage prostate cancer was a reminder that for all his success as an investor and all the plaudits he gets, Buffett is mortal and would be hard to replace at the company he has run since 1965




Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



Washington : View of the Facebook homepage taken in Washington yesterday. Facebook, already assured of becoming one of the most valuable US firms when it goes public later this month, now must convince investors in the next two weeks that it is worth all the hype. Top executives at the world's leading social network have kicked off their all-important road show on Wall Street - an intense marketing drive ahead of the company's expected trading launch on the tech-heavy Nasdaq on May 18.

(AFP PHOTO)

SATURDAY'S
Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
05/06/2012				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.82	2.87	2.93
Switzerland	CHF	194.54	195.26	196.06
Netherlands	EUR	231.77	233.89	236.24
Sweden	SEK	25.28	26.00	26.80
Denmark	DKK	30.48	31.20	32.00
Norway	NOK	29.97	30.69	31.49
Japan	JPY	219.88	221.88	224.11
(per 100)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				

Demi Moore no longer Mrs Kutcher on Twitter



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Actress Demi Moore, who announced late last year that she was ending her marriage to actor husband Ashton Kutcher, has finally made the split official... by changing her Twitter name.

"So hard finding a name that was fun somewhat playful and available. So for now it will be @justdemi It could grow on me!" Moore said on the popular microblogging site, dumping her old user name -- @mrskutcher.

"Thanks everyone for your help in finding my new name!" she tweeted to her more than five million followers.

The 49-year-old Moore was treated for "exhaustion" in January, two months after the couple split amid reports of Kutcher's infidelity with a woman less than half Moore's age.

A call to emergency services released in January features one woman telling the operator that Moore "smoked something, it's not marijuana but it's similar to incense... and she seems to be having convulsions of some sort."

Moore and Kutcher, 34, announced their separation in November, after months of media reports about problems between the couple, who married in 2005. She had earlier been married to actor Bruce Willis for 13 years.

The actress made her name in movies including "Ghost" (1990), "A Few Good Men" (1992), "Indecent Proposal" (1993) and "G.I. Jane" (1997), as well as for a 1991 Vanity Fair magazine cover photo of her naked and heavily pregnant.

Kutcher is best known for TV shows including "That 70s Show" and "Punk'd," and last year replaced troubled actor Charlie Sheen in the popular comedy "Two and a Half Men."

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Bollywood star Khan wants to 'inspire' India with TV show; gets a thumbs up from Bollywood



NEW DELHI (AFP) - Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan made a much-hyped television debut on Sunday, starring in a show dealing with real-life stories aimed at inspiring millions of Indians.

The weekly show is called "Satyamev Jayate" or "Truth Alone Triumphs", a patriotic phrase inscribed on India's national emblem and all Indian currency notes.

Satyamev Jayate got a thumbs up from the Hindi film industry.

The celebrities took to their Twitter account and bestowed their positive reactions about the show that focused on social and real life issue.

"My dream is to impact lives," said Khan, who has produced and directed the show.

The programme will be aired on state-run Doordarshan late morning on Sunday, a slot which most families in India remember for serials based on Hindu epics which would bring the entire country virtually to a standstill.

Khan's show has been cre-

ating a buzz even before the first episode, thanks to a novel promotional cross-country campaign in which the actor mingled with locals and shared their meals.

The show's teasers suggest the content is likely to tug at heartstrings of average Indians, who are struggling to

make ends meet with salaries failing to keep pace with soaring prices.

Khan, 47, has made a name for himself as one of the Indian film industry's leading actor-producer-directors, combining offbeat subjects with high-quality production.

'Avengers' storm to top of US box office



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Earth's mightiest comic book heroes brought to life in "The Avengers" stomped the opposition Sunday to storm victoriously straight to the top of the North American box office on their opening weekend.

Directed by screen cult favorite Joss Whedon, the Walt Disney adventure movie brings together Marvel Comics heroes Captain America, The Incredible Hulk, Iron Man and Thor as they help save Earth from bad guy, Loki.

"The Avengers" raked in some \$200.3 million, zoom-

ing straight to the top of the box-office leader board, industry figures showed Sunday, with Robert Downey Jr (Iron Man), Chris Evans (Captain America) and Chris Hemsworth (Thor) reprising roles from their earlier stand-alone movies.

Romantic comedy "Think Like A Man," which had topped the North American box office for two weeks in a row, was kicked into second place earning \$8 million, according to Exhibitor Relations. That brings its three-week total to \$73.0 million, the box office tracker said.

Smash action hit "The Hunger Games" remained in third place in its seventh week on the big screen. The movie, starring Jennifer Lawrence, earned \$5.7 million and has raked in more than \$380 million since its opening.

4. Tearjerker drama "The Lucky One", 5. "The Pirates! Band of Misfits," a children's animation film, 6. "The Five-Year Engagement," 7. "The Raven" 8. "Safe" 9. "Chimpanzee," 10. "The Three Stooges"



UNITED KINGDOM, London : Visitors view a portrait of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II by Jeff Stultiens after a photocall for the Royal Society of Portrait Painters exhibition at the Mall Galleries in central London on May 2, 2012. The exhibition, which runs from May 3-18, includes paintings by Royal Society members of Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and other prominent figures. (AFP PHOTO)

A must see while on Aruba Bird Sanctuary



The Bubali Bird Ponds of Aruba have become home to more than 80 species of migratory birds.

Migratory birds, looking for lush vegetation in which to nest, find an oasis within the ponds, known as Bubali Bird Sanctuary. The nearby water treatment facility empties into two inter-connected man-made lakes, known as the large and small Bubali Bird Ponds.

The area has become a resting and breeding area for the more than 80 species of migratory birds.

Birds that inhabit the sanc-

tuary include herons, egrets, gulls, skimmers, coots, cormorants, numerous species of ducks and more.

An observation tower has been erected to allow bird-watchers to get a true birds' eye view.

The Bird Sanctuary (also known as Bubali Plas) is a hidden treasure located at walking distance from both the high rise resorts and low rise resorts.

The entrance is located more towards where landmark The Old Windmill is located. Entrance is free.



It's time Kukena!

Bristol Zoo's baby gorilla Kukena holds onto his mother's arm as he ventures out of his enclosure at Bristol Zoo's Gorilla Island on May 4, 2012 in Bristol, England. The seven-month-old western lowland gorilla is starting to find his feet as he learns to walk having been born at the zoo in September. Kukena joins a family of gorillas at the zoo that are part of an international conservation breeding programme for

the western lowland gorilla, which is a critically endangered species.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Mayweather dethrones Cotto for WBA title



US boxer Floyd Mayweather smiles while holding his super welterweight title championship belt after defeating Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas (AFP photo)

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Undeclared Floyd Mayweather won the World Boxing Association super welterweight title with a unanimous points decision over Miguel Cotto on Saturday at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The American, who stepped up in weight to fight Cotto, used his superior hand speed and solid defence to take the fight on all three judges' scorecards after 12

rounds, in what will go down as one of his toughest fights.

"You got to suck it up and fight hard," Mayweather said. "Miguel Cotto was a tough competitor. I had to execute the game plan and fight my heart out."

Cotto, of Puerto Rico, made Mayweather work for the victory as he clearly won some of the middle rounds and showed a willingness to engage Mayweather in the

centre of the ring and on the ropes.

But Mayweather rallied late on and took the title with scores of 117-111 on two judges' cards and 118-110 on the third, extending his unbeaten run to 43-0 with 26 knockouts.

Mayweather, 35, said he hasn't given up on trying to work out a deal on a mega fight with Filipino star Manny Pacquiao. Their previous talks have been scuttled by a number of issues, including the sharing of pay-per-view revenue and drug testing.

"The fight I was looking to fight was against Manny Pacquiao," Mayweather said. "I don't think the fight would happen because of (Pacquiao's promoter) Bob Arum. 'Let's give the fans what they want to see.'"

It marked the 20th career title fight for Mayweather and the first time he has fought at 154 pounds since beating Oscar De La Hoya in 2007.

Fowler downs McIlroy in playoff for first US win; McIlroy regains world #1 ranking



CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) - Rickie Fowler won his first US PGA Tour title with a playoff victory over US Open champion Rory McIlroy and DA Points on Sunday at Quail Hollow.

Fowler stuck his approach shot at the first playoff hole,

the par-four 18th, four feet from the pin. After both McIlroy and Points had both parred, he made his putt for birdie and the victory in the \$6.5 million Wells Fargo Championship.

Fowler, a 23-year-old touted as a future star, won in his 67th US PGA Tour start as a professional.

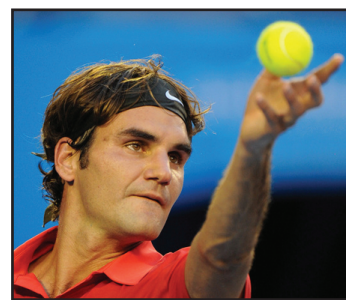
His only prior victory as a pro was last October at the Kolon Korea Open, where he held off McIlroy.

McIlroy, the 23-year-old from Northern Ireland who has already claimed a major title with his US Open triumph last year, will return to number one in the world golf rankings thanks to his per-

formance here.

He needed only a top-seven finish to regain the top spot from the absent Luke Donald, who had seized it from McIlroy just last week.

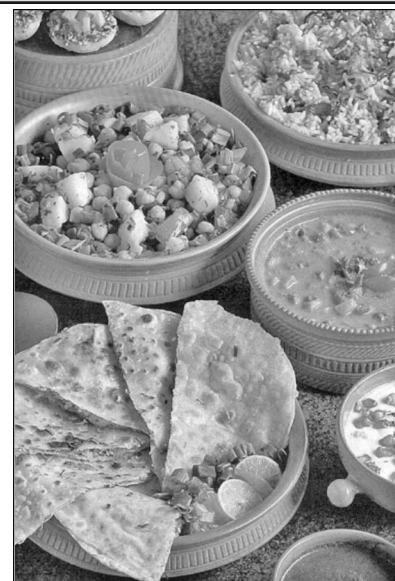
Federer has no fear of Big Blue in Madrid



MADRID, (AFP) - Blue clay courts at the Madrid Masters hold no fears for former champion Roger Federer, with the confident Swiss insisting on Sunday that he will be ready for any conditions when he begins play in the second round.

Federer, the third seed and 2009 champion, who beat Rafael Nadal to lift that title, has had two days of training on the experimental -- and controversial -- blue courts laid down at the Caja Magica.

Game day and practice sessions are two completely different situations, but the Swiss is not worried about what he might find in the heat of battle on the unorthodox



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Windies make uncertain start on and off the field

LONDON (AFP) - West Indies insisted they still had enough time to prepare properly for their upcoming Test series against England and get all their squad on board after another rain-marred day at Hove on Sunday.

After seeing the first day of their three-day tour opener against Sussex washed out on Saturday, the tourists struggled to 46 for two in the 18 overs possible at the south coast ground on Sunday.

Meanwhile the West Indies, who currently only have 11 players fit and available with them in England, have yet to hear when visa and transit issues involving Assad Fudadin, Narsingh Deonarine and Marlon Samuels will be

resolved.

They are all thousands of miles away, with the two Guyanese in Jamaica awaiting visas and Samuels still to begin his journey from the Indian Premier League. However, a team spokesman said the trio were expected shortly.

"We are not concerned about it," he said. "We are hopeful that they will be here in time for the (England) Lions match."

That four-day fixture in Northampton, central England, starts on Thursday and that means the tourists have a maximum of just five days' competitive play to come before the first of three Tests starts at Lord's on May 17.

And, with more bad weather forecast, they may not even get that.

Athletics: Bolt opens 2012 with world leading 9.82

KINGSTON, May 5, 2012 (AFP) - Double world record-holder Usain Bolt shook off two false starts to open his 2012 season with a world-leading 9.82 seconds to win the 100 metres at the Jamaica International Invitational on Saturday.

Bolt, running his first 100m of the season, looked in control from the start as he posted an easy victory over compatriots Michael Frater (10.0) and Lerone Clarke (10.03).

He improved on the previ-

ous best time of the year, the 9.90 clocked by Jamaican Yohan Blake on April 14 in Kingston.

Bolt, his sights set on defending his Olympic titles at the London Games in July, said the time shows he's in better shape than he was at the same time last year. But there is room for improvement.

"There were some mistakes in the race, my coach (Glen Mills) pointed them out and we will be fixing them in training," Bolt said.

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Juve win Serie A...

Continued from pg 16



Marco Borriello (L) and Leonardo Bonucci of Juventus FC celebrate after beating Cagliari Calcio 2-0 to win the Serie A Championships

Barcelona may have conceded their 2011 league title to arch-rivals Real Madrid last week, but three-time FIFA Ballon d'Or winner Messi gave Camp Nou a boost by pulling ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo in the race for the league's top scorer title.

Ronaldo scored a goal in Real's last-gasp 2-1 win over Granada, leaving the Portugal striker on 45 league goals, five behind Messi with one league match remaining.

ITALY

Juventus won the Serie A title for the 28th time following a 2-0 win at Cagliari as nearest rivals AC Milan crashed 4-2 in their city derby against Inter on Sunday.

That gave Juve an unassailable four-point lead at the top with just one game left.

Mirko Vucinic and a Michele Canini own goal gave the Old Lady of Turin victory in Trieste, where Cagliari have been playing recent home games.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored a brace for Milan but Inter's Diego Milito eclipsed him with a hat-trick, while Maicon put the icing on the cake late on with a fine long-

range strike.

It was Juve's first title since 2003 in the record books due to the fact they were stripped of their 2005 and 2006 crowns for match-fixing.

GERMANY

Cologne had their German league relegation confirmed on Saturday, while Borussia Dortmund broke the Bundesliga record for the most points in a season with a 4-0 thrashing of Freiburg.

Dortmund finished the season eight points clear of Champions League finalists Bayern Munich, and the team's second consecutive title triumph allowed them to break Bayern's long-held record of 79 for the most points amassed in a season as they finished on 81. Dortmund also extended their unbeaten run to 28 games.

All four Dortmund goals came from Poland internationals as Robert Lewandowski netted twice, while international teammate Jakub Blaszczykowski also hit two goals to make it 4-0 by half-time.

FRANCE

Paris Saint-Germain took

over at the top of Ligue 1 and loaded pressure on former leaders Montpellier by storming back from two goals down to win 4-3 at Valenciennes on Sunday.

After falling 2-0 down inside 11 minutes, PSG hit back through Nene, Maxwell, Blaise Matuidi and Jeremy Menez and then survived a late scare sparked by a Renaud Cohade free-kick to edge ahead of Montpellier on goals scored.

Montpellier travel to fifth-placed Rennes on Monday, before a potentially decisive home game with reigning champions Lille next weekend, when PSG will tackle Rennes at home.

Croatia can reach Euro last eight, Bilic says

ZAGREB (AFP) - Croatia coach Slaven Bilic believes his side can reach the quarter-finals of Euro 2012 despite being drawn with Spain, Italy and Ireland in Group C.

"It is true that compared to some other squads our chances are weaker but we still have them all the same," he told the Vecernji List daily newspaper. "We are going for success and I would be very disappointed if we did not make it out of our group."

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MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	18	9	.667	--	WASHINGTON	18	9	.667	--
TAMPA	19	10	.655	--	ATLANTA	17	11	.607	1.5
TORONTO	16	12	.571	2.5	NY METS	15	13	.536	3.5
YANKEES	15	13	.536	3.5	MIAMI	13	14	.481	5.0
BOSTON	11	15	.423	6.5	PHILADELPHIA	13	15	.464	5.5
Central					Central				
CLEVELAND	15	11	.577	--	ST. LOUIS	17	11	.607	--
DETROIT	14	13	.519	1.5	CINCINNATI	14	13	.519	2.5
CHICAGO	13	15	.464	3.0	HOUSTON	13	15	.464	4.0
KANSAS	9	18	.333	6.5	MILWAUKEE	12	15	.444	4.5
MINNESOTA	7	19	.269	8.0	PITTSBURG	12	16	.429	5.0
West					West				
TEXAS	18	10	.643	--	LA DODGERS	18	9	.667	--
OAKLAND	15	14	.517	3.5	ARIZONA	14	15	.483	5.0
SEATTLE	12	17	.414	6.5	SAN FRANCISCO	13	14	.481	5.0
LA ANGELES	11	17	.393	7.0	COLORADO	12	14	.462	5.5
					SAN DIEGO	9	19	.321	9.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ



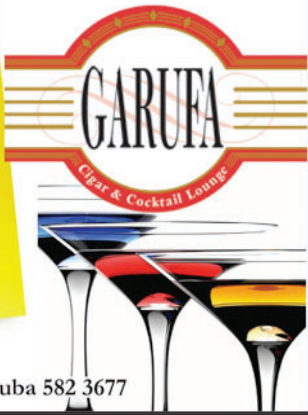
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76ers push battered Bulls to brink



Jrue Holiday #11 of the Philadelphia 76ers grabs a rebound

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (AFP) - The Philadelphia 76ers put the hurt on the hurting Chicago Bulls on Sunday, pushing the NBA's top overall playoff seeds to the brink of elimination in the first round.

Jrue Holiday scored six of his 20 points with back-to-back three-pointers late in the fourth quarter as the 76ers beat the Bulls 89-82.

They took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference series, leaving the Bulls facing elimination when they host game five in Chicago on Tuesday.

Philadelphia have won three straight games since

Chicago star Derrick Rose went down with a torn knee ligament in the Bulls' game-one victory.

The Bulls lost another key starter for this one when French center Joakim Noah severely sprained his left ankle in game three.

Elsewhere in the East, the second-seeded Miami Heat sought to complete a sweep of the New York Knicks.

No NBA team has ever rallied from an 0-3 hole to win a best-of-seven playoff series.

In Boston, the Celtics were trying to extend their 2-1 series lead when they hosted the Atlanta Hawks.



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Juve win Serie A, Man City close on English title

PARIS (AFP) - Juventus clinched the Italian Serie A title on Sunday after beating Cagliari at the same time as nearest rivals AC Milan crashed to Inter, while Manchester City edged even closer to the English Premier League crown.

ENGLAND

Manchester City moved to within touching distance of a first English league title in 44 years after Yaya Toure scored twice in a 2-0 win at Newcastle United on Sunday.

Victory left leaders City in front of reigning Premier League champions Manchester United -- who beat

Swansea City 2-0 later on Sunday -- on goal difference with just one round of fixtures remaining.

City have a goal-difference advantage of eight over United and if they beat Queens Park Rangers at Eastlands a week on Sunday, they will be all but assured of the title.

Sir Alex Ferguson's United side would need to thrash Sunderland at the Stadium of Light to stand a chance of retaining their crown.

SPAIN

Barcelona star Lionel Messi scored all four goals in

a 4-0 rout of Espanyol on Saturday to bring up his half century in La Liga and take his total goals tally for the season to a record-breaking 72.

In what was Pep Guardiola's last home match in charge at Camp Nou, Messi made sure there was a happy ending to what was an emotional night for the home fans.

Thousands had turned out with flags and banners paying tribute to Guardiola and what he has achieved for the club during his four-year spell in charge.

Continue on pg 15

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